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## **Fatigue alters the pattern of physical activity behaviour in older adults:**

### **Observational analysis of data from the Generation 100 study**

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## **Abstract**

Fatigue has been associated with reductions in daily activity of older people. Summary measures of daily physical activity provide limited understanding of how fatigue affects physical activity behaviour. This study examined the hour-by-hour energy expenditure estimated from accelerometry data in order to provide insight into physical activity behaviours of older people experiencing fatigue. Fatigued participants were matched to ‘not fatigued’ participants by age, sex and BMI. Each group consisted of 86 people with mean age 73.8 years (SD 2.0), BMI 26.5 kg·m<sup>-2</sup> (SD 3.9) and 61% female. The phase-space plot, constructed to express rate of change of average vertical axis counts per hour as a time series, showed fatigued participants deviated from the not fatigued participants during the morning period, when hour-by-hour activity was increasing. Older people who feel fatigued have a different morning activity pattern, which appears to lead to the lower overall levels of physical activity.

**Key words:** Asthenia, Ageing, Physical activity behaviour, Circadian rhythm, Bioenergetics

## Introduction

Fatigue is an under-recognised and poorly managed problem among older people. At least 25% of older people in primary care settings (Hickie et al., 1996) and up to 98% of older people in long-term care (Liao & Ferrell, 2000) report experiencing unpleasant, debilitating fatigue. Fatigue may contribute to older people reducing the amount or intensity of physical activity they perform (Egerton, Chastin, Stensvold, & Helbostad, 2015; Moreh, Jacobs, & Stessman, 2010; Schrack et al., 2014), and may be a key component in a cycle of decline to dependency. Physical activity is well known to afford health and well-being benefits, and contributes to maintenance of independence and higher quality of life (Manini et al., 2009; Vagetti et al., 2014).

The subjective experience of fatigue (or tiredness or exhaustion) is a complex phenomenon with multiple possible causes (Alexander et al., 2010; Egerton, 2013). The condition is often largely unexplained. Subjective fatigue has been associated with a 15-20% reduction in daily activity, step count and the total time spent performing higher intensity activity in older people (Egerton et al., 2015). These summary measures of physical activity provide evidence of lower energy expenditure but limited understanding of *how* fatigue influences accumulation of physical activity. Exploration of the dynamic temporal patterns of accumulation of physical activity may offer additional insights, from which more targeted therapeutic solutions or intervention to promote increased activity in fatigued individuals can be developed (Arvidsson, Eriksson, Lonn, & Sundquist, 2013; Taraldsen, Chastin, Riphagen, Vereijken, & Helbostad, 2012). This study examined the hour-by-hour accumulation of physical activity measured by accelerometry in order to provide insight into the differences in physical activity accumulation patterns between those with and without fatigue.

## Methods

Baseline data from the Generation 100 study were used (Stensvold et al., 2015). Generation 100 is an exercise intervention study carried out in Trondheim, Norway. Participants were all aged 70-77 years, recruited from the community and allocated to one of two exercise interventions or a

control group. All participants born in 1936-1942 and resident in Trondheim were invited to volunteer for eligibility assessment and understood the study involved an exercise intervention. Exclusion criteria included cancer, cardiovascular disease or other test result that indicated participation in an exercise intervention was not appropriate or was contra-indicated (as determined by the research staff), dementia, chronic communicable infectious disease or participation in another research study. Compared with the 70-77 year old population in the catchment community, the included participants tended to be more active, have a higher level of education and reported better health (Stensvold et al., 2015). Baseline data were collected in 2012-13 and included demographics, self-reported health status information including a fatigue questionnaire (Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS)), cardiac risk factors, and physical performance measures. Ethical approval for the study was granted by the Norwegian Ethical Review Board for Medical and Health Research (REK 2012/381B and 2013/787B) and participants gave written informed consent.

Fatigue was measured using the Norwegian version of the 7-item FSS (Krupp, LaRocca, Muir-Nash, & Steinberg, 1989; Lerdal, Wahl, Rustoen, Hanestad, & Moum, 2005). The FSS items are shown in Table 1. The scale has response options from 1-7, which yields scores between 7 (no fatigue) and 49 (extreme fatigue). The psychometric properties of validity, reliability (Krupp et al., 1989) and cross-cultural validity for the Norwegian translation (Lerdal et al., 2005) have been reported. The FSS was originally validated in a chronic neurological illness population and has since been subjected to psychometric testing in a wide range of disease conditions and general population cohorts, with many of the samples including older adults (Johansson, Kottorp, Lee, Gay, & Lerdal, 2014; Lerdal et al., 2005). The scale has been extensively used to measure subjective fatigue in studies, some of which have focussed on older adults (Soyuer & Senol, 2011; Tennant, Takacs, Gau, Clark, & Russ, 2012; Whitehead, 2009). The 7-item version excludes an item that specifically asks about activity-related fatigue to improve its validity for measuring more chronic tiredness (Lerdal et al., 2011; Lerdal et al., 2005). Participants who responded to at least four items were included, and up to three

missing items were imputed with the average score from answered items. A cut-off of  $\geq 28$  is indicative of problematic fatigue (Valko, Bassetti, Bloch, Held, & Baumann, 2008) and has been previously shown to be suitable for distinguishing patients with and without fatigue (Flachenecker et al., 2002; Krupp et al., 1989). Thus this cut off was used in this study to dichotomise those participants who were and were not fatigued. Eighty-six participants in the cohort reported  $\geq 28$  on the FSS. These ‘fatigued’ participants were matched using Stata (StataCorp, LP, College Station, TX) to ‘not fatigued’ participants (FSS < 28) according to sex, age (same age in years) and BMI (closest available participant).

Several physical performance measures and self-reported health outcomes collected at baseline were reported in this study. These included  $VO_{2peak}$  as a measure of cardiorespiratory fitness, which was measured using standard  $VO_{2max}$  testing procedures (Egerton et al., 2015; Stensvold et al., 2015; Wisloff et al., 2007). As  $VO_{2max}$  was not achieved for all participants (64%) the term  $VO_{2peak}$  is used. Gait data was collected using a 6.7m (5.5m active area) GAITRite® electronic walkway (CIR Systems Inc, Havertown, PA). Participants were asked to walk two passes each at their preferred or usual walking speed. The raw data was processed with the PKMAS® (v507C4I3, ProtoKinetics, Havertown, PA) software and the calculated speed was averaged for the two walks (Egerton, Thingstad, & Helbostad, 2014).

Self-report chronic conditions, history of cardiovascular disease, sleep, depression and prescription medication usage were recorded in the baseline questionnaire. The chronic conditions score was generated by asking “Do you have any long-term (at least 1 year) illnesses, injuries or problems of a physical or psychological nature that impairs your functioning in your daily life?” Participants were then asked to indicate whether their impairment was slight (1 point), moderate (2 points) or severe (3 points) in each category of mobility, physical illness or psychological illness. Total scores could range from 0-9. A positive history of cardiovascular disease was assigned when the participant reported having had myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, heart failure, or atrial

fibrillation. A sleep score was calculated from three questions (1) “Have you had problems in getting to sleep in the last month?” (2) “During the last month, have you ever woken too early and not been able to get back to sleep?” and (3) “Do you feel sleepy during the day?”, with four possible responses: 1 = never or rarely, 2 = now and then, or 3 = several times per week. A similar method has previously been reported (Sivertsen, Krokstad, Overland, & Mykletun, 2009). Total scores ranged from 3-9. Depression was measured with the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (Zigmond & Snaith, 1983), which is a self-report rating scale of 14 items on a 4-point Likert scale (1 to 4). The scale was designed to measure the intensity of anxiety and depression symptoms (7 items for each subscale). For each subscale the score is the sum of the respective 7 items. The reliability and validity of the scale have been tested in several clinical and nonclinical studies (McCue, Buchanan, & Martin, 2006). The depression subscale total was used for this study, with possible score range from 7 to 28. Medication usage was measured by asking “How many prescription medications do you use in total?”.

Physical activity was measured by ActiGraph GT3X (ActiGraph, Pensacola, FL) activity monitors worn on the right side using a belt around the waist. Participants were asked to wear the monitors continuously for seven consecutive days, apart from during water-based activities. The activity monitor records accelerations which are converted into activity counts that increase linearly with the magnitude of the acceleration. The activity counts reflect the intensity of bodily movement, thus the higher number of counts measured, the more active a person is (Hall, Howe, Rana, Martin, & Morey, 2013). Total number of ‘counts’ was used for the outcome variable in this study to reflect total energy expending activity rather than imposing any external criteria such as intensity thresholds. Using intensity thresholds has been criticised for lack of validation in older adults (Gorman et al., 2014; Hall et al., 2013). The present study used only vertical axis data because most of the validation and calibration work has been done with only vertical axis data and the data will be more easily compared to other studies. Some evidence suggests that the vertical is indeed the most



important axis (Hanggi, Phillips, & Rowlands, 2013; Kelly et al., 2013), particularly for capturing ambulatory activity, which is the primary source of physical activity in older adults (Lord et al., 2011). Activity counts correlate well with energy expenditure when walking at different speeds and gradients (Hansen et al., 2013). Step counts can also be derived from vertical axis data using proprietary algorithms and while many studies have published these data (Arias-Palencia et al., 2015; Barreira, Harrington, Schuna, Tudor-Locke, & Katzmarzyk, 2015; Ferguson, Rowlands, Olds, & Maher, 2015) and validity of Actigraph step counts against direct observation has been demonstrated in some studies (Le Masurier, Lee, & Tudor-Locke, 2004; Lee, Williams, Brown, & Laurson, 2015), the accuracy has been shown to be suboptimal in others (Hickey, John, Sasaki, Mavilia, & Freedson, 2015). Total daily step counts are reported in this study for descriptive purposes only. The ‘Troiano 2007’ wear time validation method was applied (Troiano, 2007). This is an established method of identifying data likely to be invalid due to device removal. In this method, continuous periods of zero counts for 60 minutes or more, with a tolerance of up to 2 minutes of up to 100 counts per minute (CPM) within the period, were defined as ‘non-wear’ and excluded from the analysis. Days were considered valid if there was a minimum of 10 hours of wear time, and a minimum of four valid days was required for inclusion of the participant.

Vertical axis counts were exported for each hour using ActiLife software (Version 6.11.5, ActiGraph, Pensacola, FL). Counts per hour (CPH) was used to represent hourly energy expenditure of participants. For hours with less than 60 minutes of wear time, counts were divided by minutes of wear time and multiplied by 60. For each participant, average CPH were calculated for each hour and then an average for each day. Average CPH for fatigued and not fatigued participants were plotted against time, for the whole cohort and separately for men and women, to show the within day pattern of energy expending activity. Sex differences have been found in vertical axis counts during free-living activity (Harris, Owen, Victor, Adams, & Cook, 2009) and these differences have been shown to be independent of walking speed, step length or anthropometrics (Van Domelen et al.,

2014). Therefore it was considered important to explore whether the pattern of activity behaviour differs between older men and older women.

Data analysis followed a dynamic systems approach to understand differences in temporal evolution of energy expending activity between fatigued and not fatigued older adults. The CPH time series were analysed using phase-space plot charting the change in hourly energy expending activity (d1CPH) against the energy expending activity (CPH) in the previous hour (Kantz & Schreiber, 2004). Phase-space plots were generated using matlab R12.b with smooth interpolation between data points. The phase-space plot enables identification of differences in the rate of changes in amount of energy expending activity over time. When the hour-by-hour energy expending activity is increasing (an acceleration phase), the d1CPH is positive. When the hourly activity is decreasing with each passing hour, the d1CPH is negative. For periods of the day when the hour-by-hour rate of change is steady, either increasing or decreasing, these periods can be fitted to a linear regression line and the slopes compared statistically with t-tests.

## Results

Each group consisted of 86 people with mean age 73.8 years (SD 2.0), BMI 26.5 kg.m<sup>-2</sup> (SD 3.9) and 52 (61%) were female. Participant selection details are shown in Figure 1 and descriptive information in Table 2. The fatigued participants had lower cardiorespiratory fitness (VO<sub>2</sub>max), slower gait speed, more chronic conditions, were more likely to have a history of cardiovascular disease, had poorer sleep, and higher levels of depression, but there was no statistically significant difference in number of prescription medications. There was no difference in number of valid days of activity recording or wear time per day between fatigued and not fatigued participants. Mean valid days was 7.4 days (SD 1.6) for fatigued and 7.7 days (SD 2.7) for not fatigued, and mean wear time per day was 18.6 hours (SD 1.8) for fatigued and 19.0 hours (SD 1.6) for not fatigued ( $p > 0.05$ ). The average minutes of valid data (wear time) per hour across all hours and all participants was 52.3 minutes for fatigued and 53.4 minutes for not fatigued participants. The minutes of valid data per

hour varied with the lowest average for 00:00-01:00hrs at 41.6 minutes, and the highest for 12:00-13:00hrs at 58.8 minutes. The daytime hours from 06:00-20:00hrs all had an average of over 50 minutes of valid data per hour. Loss of valid data could be due to correctly classified non-wear if the participant removed the device, or incorrectly classified non-wear which may happen during sleep periods and therefore predominantly affects hours between midnight and 06:00hrs. As expected, a difference in daily energy expenditure was evident: 180 CPM (SD 72) versus 217 CPM (SD 78) for fatigued and not fatigued respectively ( $p = 0.002$ ). Similarly there was a difference in daily step count derived from the ActiGraph data: 5466 steps/day (SD 2138) versus 6604 steps/day (SD 1958) ( $p < 0.001$ ).

Figure 2 shows the hourly pattern of accumulation of activity for fatigued and not fatigued older people and for each sex separately. In both men and women the peak hour of activity was later and lower for the fatigued participants. Figure 3 is the phase-space plot showing a deviation between the groups in the dynamics of energy expenditure. Above 10000 CPH the fatigued group does not sustain the same rate of energy expenditure during the period of positive rate of change (acceleration phase), leading to a different peak of energy expenditure. Figure 4 shows the linear regression lines for the morning (acceleration phase) from 06:00hrs to 12:00hrs, and the afternoon/evening (deceleration phase) from 13:00hrs to 20:00hrs. The difference in slopes of the regression lines for fatigued and not fatigued participants was significant for the morning period ( $p=0.003$ ) but not for the afternoon/evening period ( $p=0.475$ ).

## Discussion

A pattern of daily accumulation of activity, whereby hourly activity increases during the morning, peaks around the middle of the day / early afternoon, and decreases hour-by-hour during the afternoon and evening, was found for both fatigued and not fatigued participants, and for both men and women. Differences were found in the phase-space plot depicting rate of energy expending activity between the groups. The difference in dynamics appears to depend on the time of the day or

whether rate was accelerating or decelerating. The rate of increase of energy expending activity was reduced during the morning period for fatigued people compared with not fatigued people. At a certain level of hourly activity (around 10000 CPH) the fatigued group, despite apparently being capable of reaching higher hourly activity levels (as evidenced by the higher levels later in the day), did not increase at the same rate as the not fatigued people.

While at an individual level, hourly energy expending activity is highly variable within and between participants, once sufficient numbers of participants are combined, the shape of the hour-by-hour activity plot becomes surprisingly simple. Activity increases with each hour until a peak, and then gradually declines hour-by-hour until the evening. This temporal pattern has been found in some previous research studies (Arvidsson et al., 2013; Cooper, Page, Fox, & Misson, 2000; Martin et al., 2014; Page et al., 2005; Schrack et al., 2014; Steeves, Murphy, Zipunnikov, Strath, & Harris, 2015), but not others (Cooper et al., 2000; Page et al., 2005; Tanaka, Kawamata, Gen-No, Nose, & Kawamata, 2015). The pattern seems to emerge in studies with people who are not constrained by work or school, such as older people or in studies where the data is collected on weekend days, and in studies with larger numbers. Work appears to stimulate activity such that when older people are unconstrained by work, they become less active (Schrack et al., 2014). The data are suggestive of an underlying universal dynamical (within-day) energy expenditure law that is frequently over-ridden at an individual level depending on the many internal and external influences driving our need and desire to be physically active.

The progressive hour-by-hour increase/decrease is intriguing. The pattern does not fit well with the notion of pacing, where a steady state of activity would be maintained throughout the day, as determined by knowledge of the tasks required, and energy and time available (Noakes, 2012). Activity at individual level is known to be highly variable and accumulated in shorter bouts (Chastin et al., 2009; Levine et al., 2008; Matthews et al., 2008). The pattern reflects hourly activity averaged over multiple participants and multiple days, but may expose the existence of an underlying activity

driver. Multiple compelling factors may be simultaneously involved, whereby each hour of activity is dependent upon the previous hour of activity, plus circadian cycles in several biological systems such as melatonin or cortisol levels (Gomersall, Rowlands, English, Maher, & Olds, 2013). Such biological determinants of activity have received less attention than physical, psychosocial and environmental determinants of physical activity. Yet evidence from human and animal studies suggests several possible genetic and metabolic mechanisms, such as neurohumeral processes, a hypothalamic feedback loop to dampen down voluntary activity, and the dopaminergic and endocannabinoid systems, may play a part in controlling energy expenditure through physical activity (Eisenmann & Wickel, 2009; Garland et al., 2011; Thorburn & Proietto, 2000). Within day fluctuations have been documented for various physiological variables (Trine & Morgan, 1995). These include body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, cortisol, adrenaline (epinephrine) and noradrenaline (norepinephrine), under resting and active conditions (Trine & Morgan, 1995). For example, exercise heart rate is lowest in the morning and peaks during the afternoon (Trine & Morgan, 1995). Interestingly, perceived effort of walking was found not to be associated with energy cost of walking in older adults (Julius, Brach, Wert, & VanSwearingen, 2012), implying that perceived effort may be related to physiological variables rather than to physical ability. Perceived effort is a major component of self-reported fatigue (Egerton, 2013), and instantaneous perceived effort during a standardized task (fatigability) has been found to be directly related to self-selected gait speed and self-reported mobility ability (Simonsick, Schrack, Glynn, & Ferrucci, 2014). The extent to which physiological or other psychological variables, such as perception of effort, mood states and anxiety, are subject to within day rhythms and directly or indirectly drive physical activity, perhaps through sensations of energy or fatigue, are lines of inquiry for future research.

Fatigue appeared to lead to a slower rate of change in hourly activity, during the morning, or during the phase of increasing rate, resulting in the reduced total amount of activity seen in all the volumetric activity outcomes reported. We did not find that fatigued people spent less of the day

active or ceased activity earlier in the day. The timings of the morning rise and afternoon fall in hourly counts were similar in both groups. An alteration in energy balance, or the perception of energy balance, hour-by-hour, or perhaps minute-by-minute, may be the primary factor limiting activity performance (Kluger, Krupp, & Enoka, 2013). Previous research has shown age-related decreases in physical activity (Martin et al., 2014; Schrack et al., 2014). Lack of available energy has been proposed as the mediator in the decline, and fatigue as the mechanism in this age-related difference (Schrack et al., 2014). Actual or perceived lack of available energy may be a result of the higher resting energy expenditure and/or inflammation that occur in older people with multiple chronic diseases (Fabbri, An, Schrack, et al., 2015; Fabbri, An, Zoli, et al., 2015). The hypothesis was tested by Schrager et al (Schrager, Schrack, Simonsick, & Ferrucci, 2014) who determined the participants' 'available energy' from a walking protocol and showed that 'available energy' was associated with lower physical activity levels. Our data further support this hypothesis. They also found that among those with the lowest cardiorespiratory fitness, this association was even stronger. It is clear that the mechanisms responsible for the perceptions of energy and fatigue need to be determined in order to derive solutions that address the difficulty older people in general, and even more so older people experiencing high levels of fatigue, appear to have in achieving adequate levels of daily physical activity.

The main limitations of the study are the subjectivity of the fatigue questionnaire, which is a problem with all self-report measures, and the lack of specificity in the fatigue questionnaire. It is now known that there are several subtypes of fatigue caused by a range of different problems including tiredness from sleep disorders, directly from a bout of physical activity or from certain neurological or inflammatory diseases and cancer. The data available showed the fatigued group had lower cardiovascular fitness, slower gait speed, more self-reported chronic conditions, were more likely to have a history of cardiovascular disease, had worse sleep and higher depression scores. All of these conditions could explain the fatigue or confound the association between fatigue and

physical activity. The fatigued participants in this study may have had different combinations of causes of their fatigue symptoms and not all causes of fatigue will necessarily have the same association with physical activity. This study does not try to relate the altered activity pattern to anything other than the subjectively reported experience of fatigue. Future research should determine whether different fatigue causes, or other related conditions such as depression, lead to different alterations in energy expending activity patterns. Of note, the participants in this study all met the study inclusion/exclusion criteria, were deemed by research staff to be physically capable of participating in an exercise intervention and volunteered for a study with an exercise component.

There are also important methodological limitations with the activity measurement. Reduced minutes/hour of valid data may lead to an under estimation of activity if lost minutes included higher than average activity such as swimming, or an overestimation if lost minutes had lower than average activity for example if sedentary behaviour is miscategorised as non-wear (typically during night time). Miscategorisation of non-wear vs sedentary behaviour at night would not noticeably affect our findings, and the low level of data loss during daytime hours increases confidence in the results.

## **Conclusion**

This observational study showed that fatigue affects older people's rate of increasing energy expending activity during the morning. This apparently different morning activity pattern appears to lead to the lower overall levels of physical activity. Limited available energy for physical activity may lead to a fatigue burden that has an hour-by-hour cumulative effect on activity. The question now is how to use the knowledge of alteration in the rate of increase of activity as a target of therapeutic interventions in order to promote greater physical activity among both healthy and fatigued older people. Interventions targeting perceptions of energy and fatigue may be worthwhile and there may be times of the day when physical activity interventions have more effect. For example, targeting the middle of day for physical activities or exercise may help older people experiencing fatigue to

achieve long term higher levels of activity. However, clearly more needs to be understood about the mechanisms involved in the perceptions of available energy and the biological mechanisms that drive within-day physical activity.

### **Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

### **Authors' contributions**

TE conceived and designed the study, processed, analysed and interpreted the data, and drafted the manuscript. DS and JH were involved in revising the manuscript critically, and DS was responsible for the data collection. SC made substantial contributions to conception and design, interpretation of data, and revising the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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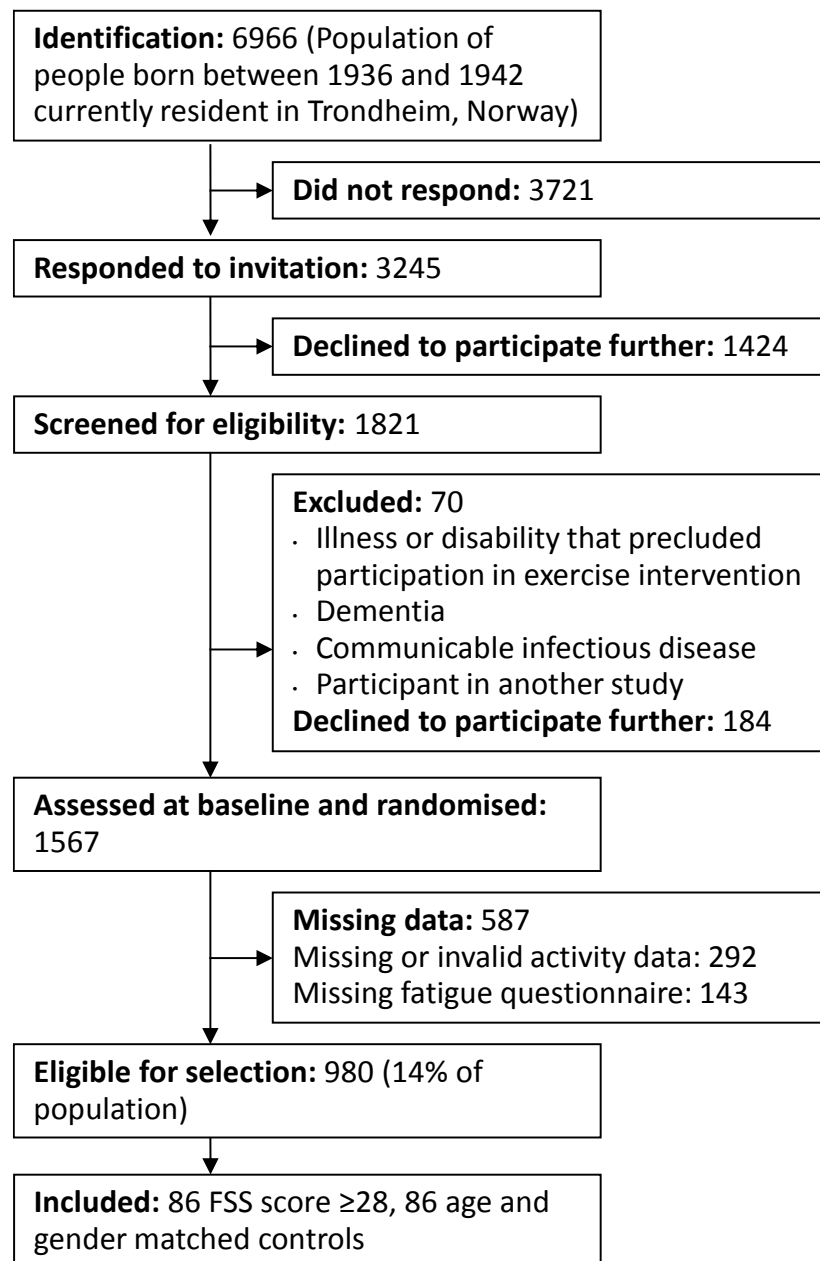
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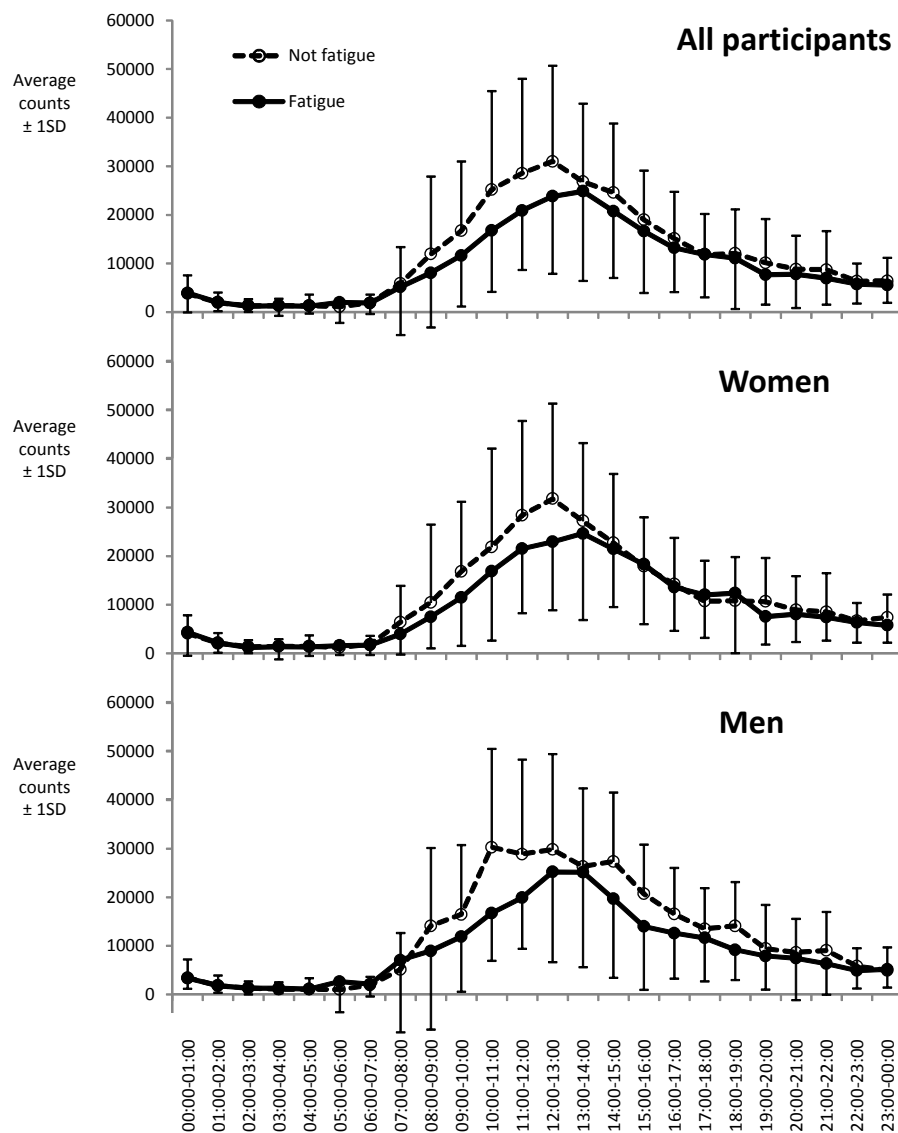
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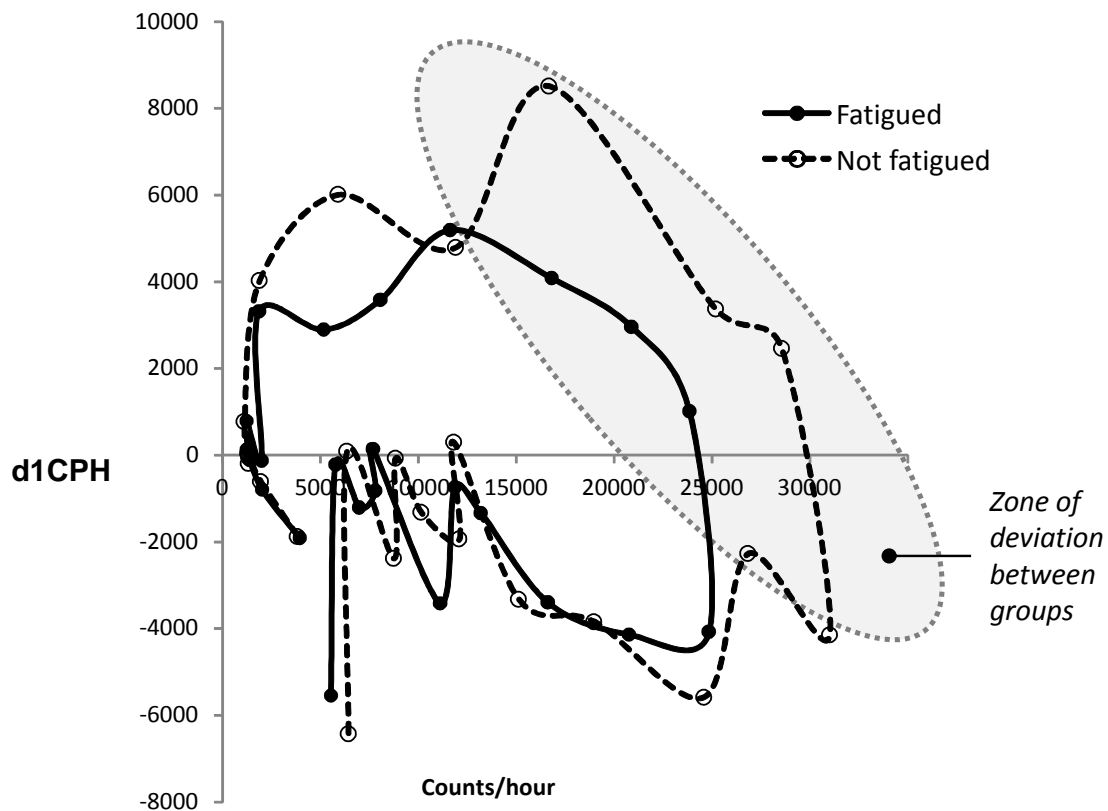
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**Figure 1.** Flow diagram of participant selection.

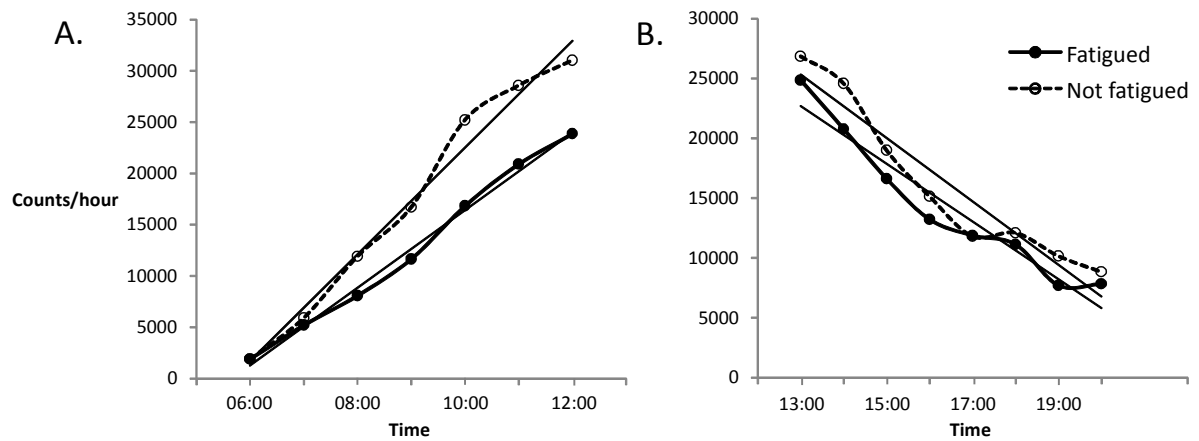


**Figure 2.** Hour-by-hour energy expenditure for fatigued and not fatigued older people and for each sex separately.



**Figure 3.** Phase-space plot showing the temporal pattern of energy expending activity. The trajectory represents the dynamics of the hourly change in activity. From the graph it can be deduced that there is a deviation between the groups in the dynamics of energy expending activity and that there are two linear regions (morning and afternoon).





**Figure 4.** Morning and afternoon/evening counts per hour for fatigued and not fatigued groups with regression lines.

**Table 1.** Fatigue Severity Scale items (7-item English version).

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This questionnaire contains seven statements that rate the severity of your fatigue symptoms. Read each statement and circle a number from 1 to 7, based on how accurately it reflects your condition during the past week and the extent to which you agree or disagree that the statement applies to you.

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During the past week, I have found that:

1. I am easily fatigued.
  2. Fatigue interferes with my physical functioning.
  3. Fatigue causes frequent problems for me.
  4. My fatigue prevents sustained physical functioning.
  5. Fatigue interferes with carrying out certain duties and responsibilities.
  6. Fatigue is among my three most disabling symptoms.
  7. Fatigue interferes with my work, family or social life.
- 

Reference: Krupp LB, LaRocca NG, Muir-Nash J, Steinberg AD. The fatigue severity scale. Application to patients with multiple sclerosis and systemic lupus erythematosus. *Arch Neurol.* 1989;46(10):1121-1123.

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**Table 2.** Descriptive data. Group differences analysed with t-test, Mann-Whitney U test or Chi-Square test as appropriate.

	<b>Fatigued (n=86)</b>	<b>Not Fatigued (n=86)</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Age, mean years (SD, range)</b>	73.9 (2.0, 71-77)	73.7 (2.0, 71-77)	
<b>BMI, mean kg.m<sup>-2</sup> (SD, range)</b>	26.6 (4.1, 19.0-42.1)	26.5 (3.7, 18.7-35.7)	
<b>Sex, n female (%)</b>	52 (61%)	52 (61%)	
<b>Average counts per minute, mean CPM (SD)</b>	180 (72)	217 (78)	0.002
<b>Mean counts per hour, mean CPH (SD)</b>	9,726 (3,960)	11,780 (4170)	0.001
<b>Maximum counts per hour, mean (SD)</b>	36,297 (19,970)	47,544 (25,528)	0.002
<b>Average daily step count, mean steps/day (SD)</b>	5466 (2138)	6604 (1958)	<0.001
<b>Cardiorespiratory fitness (VO<sub>2</sub>peak), mean ml/min/kg (SD)</b>	25.8 (6.4)	28.5 (7.0)	0.009
<b>Preferred gait speed, mean m/s (SD)</b>	1.22 (0.18)	1.33 (0.17)	<0.001
<b>Chronic conditions</b>	2.9 (2.2, 1-10)	1.8 (1.4, 1-7)	<0.001
<b>History of cardiovascular disease, yes (%)</b>	19 (22%)	8 (9%)	0.021
<b>Sleep</b>	6.0 (1.5, 3-9)	5.1 (1.4, 3-9)	<0.001
<b>Depression (HADS), mean (SD, range)</b>	11.4 (2.6, 7-18)	9.2 (2.0, 7-17)	<0.001
<b>Number of prescription medications, mean (SD, range)</b>	2.7 (2.2, 0-10)	2.0 (1.6, 0-6)	0.057

BMI = body mass index, CPM = counts per minute, CPH = counts per hour, HADS = Hospital anxiety and depression scale.